

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PORT M 00897 160825Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /079 W
-----094080 170301Z /64

R 160200Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3366
INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
CINCPAC HONOLULU

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0897

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PP, ID
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE'S VISIT TO INDONESIA

1. I HAVE TALKED TO FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE TWICE ABOUT HIS TRIP TO INDONESIA, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT HE WAS VERY FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY WHAT HE SAW AND HEARD. HE SAID THAT PRESIDENT SUHARTO HAD BEEN VERY OPEN AND FRANK WITH HIM, FULLY EXPLAINING INDONESIA'S POSITION RE IRIAN JAYA. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN FULLY BRIEFED BY OTHER GOI OFFICIALS. HE FELT THAT HE HAD BEEN WELL TREATED THROUGHOUT. HE ALSO SPOKE OF THE GOOD IMPRESSION THE INDONESIAN PEOPLE MADE ON HIM AS HE TRAVELED AROUND. HE REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES THAT HE LIKED THE INDONESIAN PEOPLE VERY MUCH.

2. OLEWALE SAID HE HAD HEARD PRIOR TO HIS VISIT THAT HE WOULD SEE MAINLY JAVANESE PEOPLE IN JAYAPURA, AND THAT THE FEW MELANESIANS WERE DOING MENIAL WORK. THAT WAS NOT TRUE, HE SAID. HE SAW MANY MELANESIANS IN JAYAPURA IN RESPONSIBLE JOBS.

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3. OLEWALE VISITED EAST TIMOR, AND WAS THE FIRST FOREIGN MINISTER TO DO SO. HE SAID THE PORTUGUESE HAD BEEN THE WORST COLONIZERS IN THE WORLD AND THE RESULTS OF THEIR CENTURIES OF COLONIZATION WERE MINIMAL. HE BELIEVED THAT THE INDONESIANS WERE MAKING A GOOD START ON THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF EAST TIMOR.

4. INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR BUSIRI SURJOWINOTO, WHO WAS EQUALLY PLEASED WITH OLEWALE'S TRIP, SAID IT IS BEING FOLLOWED UP BY VISITS OF BOY SCOUTS, EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS AND TEACHERS, AND ASSISTANCE TO PNG WITH SMALL TECHNOLOGY. HE SAID THE INDONESIAN FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD PAY A RETURN VISIT LATER THIS YEAR OR EARLY 1979.

5. COMMENT: OLEWALE HAS MADE ALMOST A ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY DEGREE SWING IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS INDONESIA. SUCH A RADICAL CHANGE IN SUCH A SHORT TIME RAISES QUESTIONS OF DURABILITY, BUT CERTAINLY TENSIONS WILL BE EASED IN AT LEAST THE SHORT RUN.
OLMSTED

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTM00897
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780253-0297
Format: TEL
From: PORT MORESBY
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780650/aaaabrcj.tel
Line Count: 75
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e0c95087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2321057
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOREIGN MINISTER OLEWALE'S VISIT TO INDONESIA
TAGS: PEPR, PP, ID, (OLEWALE, EBIA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e0c95087-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014